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July 29, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
Chief Clerk & Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Inquiry Regarding an Allowable Ex Parte Briefing from Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated Regarding Tree Trimming and the Pros and Cons of Moving Above-Ground Electric Lines and Placing Them Underground.
Docket No. ND 2020-20-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

It is my understanding that the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") intends to conduct the above referenced allowable *ex parte* via a virtual procedure on August 11, 2020, at 10:00 am. I am concerned that as the Representative of the Executive Director of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") I will be unable to certify any such proceeding. The language of S.C. Code Ann. §58-3-260(6), which governs allowable *ex parte* proceedings before the Commission, does not contemplate such proceedings being conducted via telephone or video conferencing. The statute gives specific guidance as to the conduct and actions of the ORS Executive Director's representative, parties, persons, commissioners and commission employees who are present at such briefings.

I would therefore ask that the Commission consider postponing this allowable *ex parte* until such time as the presenter(s), commissioners, commission staff, and ORS Representative may all be present in the Commissions hearing room. Alternatively, based on the subject matter, I would ask that the Commission consider requesting that Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. make a filing with the Commission to address the concerns made by Commissioner Howard in Directive Order No. 2020-486.

Letter – Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire
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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/Andrew M. Bateman

Andrew M. Bateman

cc: All Parties of Record (via e-mail)
David Butler, Esquire (via e-mail)